

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 22, 2013

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Important Dates

April 23	Spelling Bee Final Round
April 26	Institute day (no school)
May 15	Robert Crown Field Trip
May 17	Transition Picnic
May 29	Completion Ceremony

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who helped make this years Rockin Lock In a great success. We could not have done it without you!

It's hard to believe, but the end of the year is fast approaching! Be on the lookout for information coming home about upcoming field trips and the completions ceremony.

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - This week we will be painting on the the final details onto our kiln-fired presidents. Look for photos on the artblog. We are beginning a drawing project where we will learn how to emphasis the focal point or center of interest in our artwork through leading lines and contrast. Also, for students attending the lock-in, we will be painting the 5th grade mural during the lock-in. Please have your student bring painting clothes or a smock.

www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are continuing our big Theme and Variations project this week. Students will learn to play the theme of the assignment on the recorder and then create their own variations by changing different musical aspects of the piece. Each student will have their own packet for this assignment. They will work on making one variation by themselves. I will make suggestions on this variation by Wednesday and then allow them to work with me on Friday at 11:30 to improve their assignment. They may also take the assignment home to make corrections and bring it back by Friday. More details about the whole assignment will be available on the music website this week.

Chorus - The Wolves game is Sunday March 17th! Details will be sent home this week about where we are meeting and at what time. If you can give a ride, please email akaria@op97.org. We will be singing "Don't Stop Believing" at the game.

Click here for the karaoke track:

[Don't Stop Believing Audio](#)

And here for the lyrics"

[Don't Stop Lyrics](#)

Spanish - Students have completed all assessments from the last story about Juan the bombero and

watched recordings of their skits. They will be starting a new story this week.
<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - There is still one more chance to participate in Reading Olympics this year, and that is with the EXTREME competition! This competition will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at Holmes and will feature all 18 books. In order to compete, you must have been in either the spring or the fall competition (or both). The district Extreme competition is Tuesday, April 23 and will be all day at the Oak Park Public Library.

In other library news, we're continuing to read RJ Palacio's *Wonder* during library time. Take a look at the Wonder website for information about this amazing novel, <http://choosekind.tumblr.com/> Choose kind! For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

The focus in reading this week will be on main idea and determining the meaning of vocabulary in the context of nonfiction text. Students will read articles on different subjects and figure out the meaning of unknown words by using context clues. The students will also work on identifying the main idea of these articles and summarizing the information.

Language Arts

During the month of April, students will learn how to form an argument. They will take on the role of either a patriot or loyalist during the American Revolution, write an essay arguing their position, and then participate in a debate within the classroom.

Math

Graded Unit 10 tests will be returned to students by the end of the week. The Million Dollar project will be assigned to students this week. The objective of this project is for students to spend exactly one million dollars in certain specified categories. The project will be due on May 22 and students will have some time to work on the project in class. Project documents are posted on the math page of the 5th grade wiki. Later this week, we will be piloting a unit from enVision Math covering multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers.

Science

Due to the rain day last week, our heart dissection has been rescheduled for this Thursday. In preparation, we will review the respiratory and circulatory systems and conduct an activity measuring heart rates before, during, and after exercise. We will have a short quiz on Thursday.

Social Studies

This week we will focus on Westward Expansion. Students will become familiar with how settlers traveled west, and how the country grew under the Louisiana Purchase, and the

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